

**Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) issued the following statement regarding the President Obama's upcoming address before a Joint Session of Congress on Wednesday, September 9th.**

"As Congress resumes the healthcare debate, I hope the President and Speaker Pelosi have been listening to the millions of Americans who are strongly opposed to government run health care that would explode our deficit even further and would cause tens of millions of Americans to lose the coverage they currently have. Over the last month, I spoke with many doctors and heard from thousands of everyday Americans across the North State and I heard a constant refrain. We need to reform our health care system but more government is not the answer.

"I support several options that would bring down costs without putting government between patients and their doctors. Lawsuit abuse reform could save potentially hundreds of billions of dollars each year. Congress should allow adult children up to the age of 25 to remain on their parents' policy, which would extend coverage to millions more Americans, and to ensure that those with pre-existing conditions have access to affordable coverage. We should work to change the incentives in the health care system so there's more focus on wellness and preventive care, and so doctors and hospitals who provide the best-quality care are rewarded. And it's past time to level the playing field in our tax code for all Americans who purchase health care. The American people have stated their opposition to government-run health care and I hope that the President will respond by working with Republicans to offer a reform plan that won't take us down the failed path that Canada and the U.K. have traveled with socialized medicine."